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"...COLDLY, AND HEAVY WITH THE WEIGHT OF DEATH."

MASTER OF KUNG FU® Vol. 1, No. 106, November, 1981. (U.S.P.S. 427-030) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Gallion, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1981 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 50¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate \$6.00 for 12 issues. Canada, \$7.00. Foreign, \$8.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SHANG-CHI (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.



"BEYOND LONDON, IN THE COUNTRY HOME OF PAVANE, LEIKO TENGES TO THE SOUND OF A LOW GROWL..."

THAT PANTHER, PAVANE...!

DON'T WORRY YOURSELF, MISS WU. BIDI WILL BE UPSET BY THE DAMAGE WROUGHT TO OUR HOME, BUT SHE WON'T THREATEN ANYONE TO WHOM I SHOW NO HOSTILITY...



... AND FOR THE MOMENT, YOU AND SHANG-CHI ARE MY ALLIES.

GO AHEAD, SHANG-CHI-- REMOVE HIS BLADE.

AND YOU, RAZOR-FIST -- WE KNOW YOU SERVE VELCRO, BUT WHERE IS YOUR HOME-BASE?

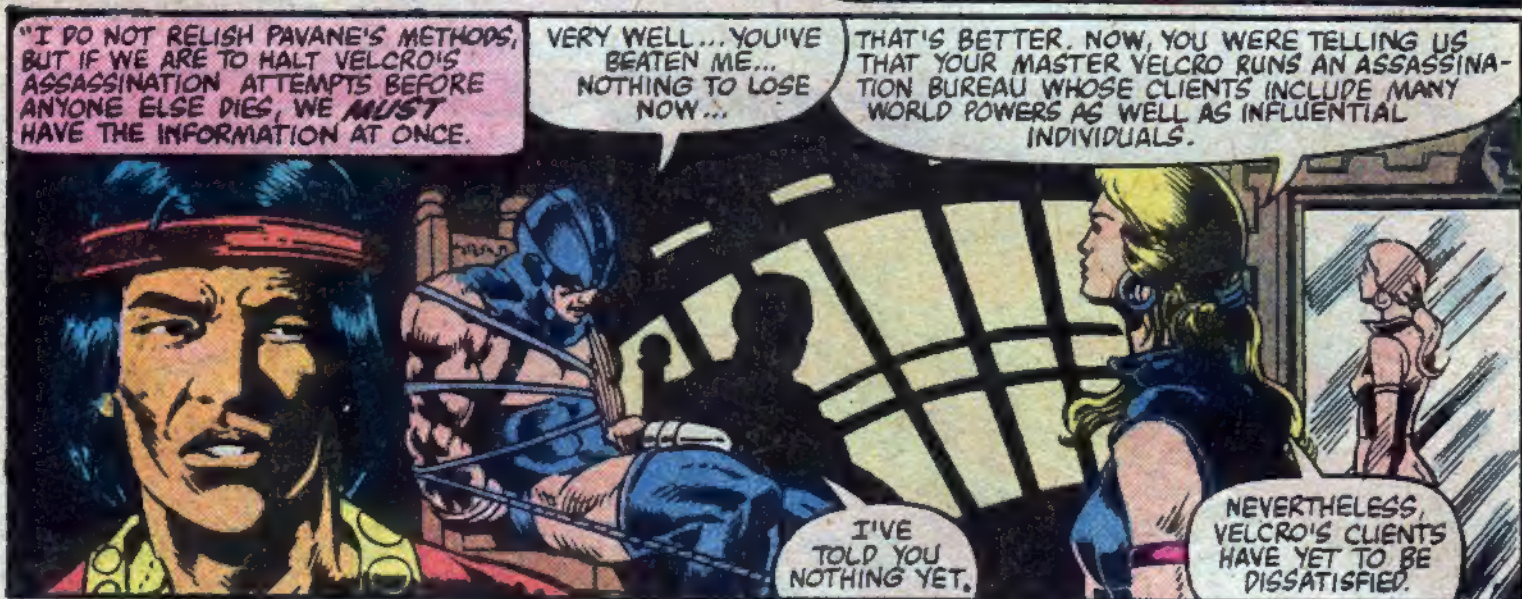
"HE REFUSES TO ANSWER."



"HIS BLADE, TOO, SHALL REMAIN SILENT IN THE FUTURE."

COME, COME, YOU'RE HELPLESS NOW AND WE HOLD ALL THE TRUMPS. YOU MAY AS WELL TALK AND ENSURE THAT YOU GO TO PRISON IN GOOD HEALTH.

SPRAK



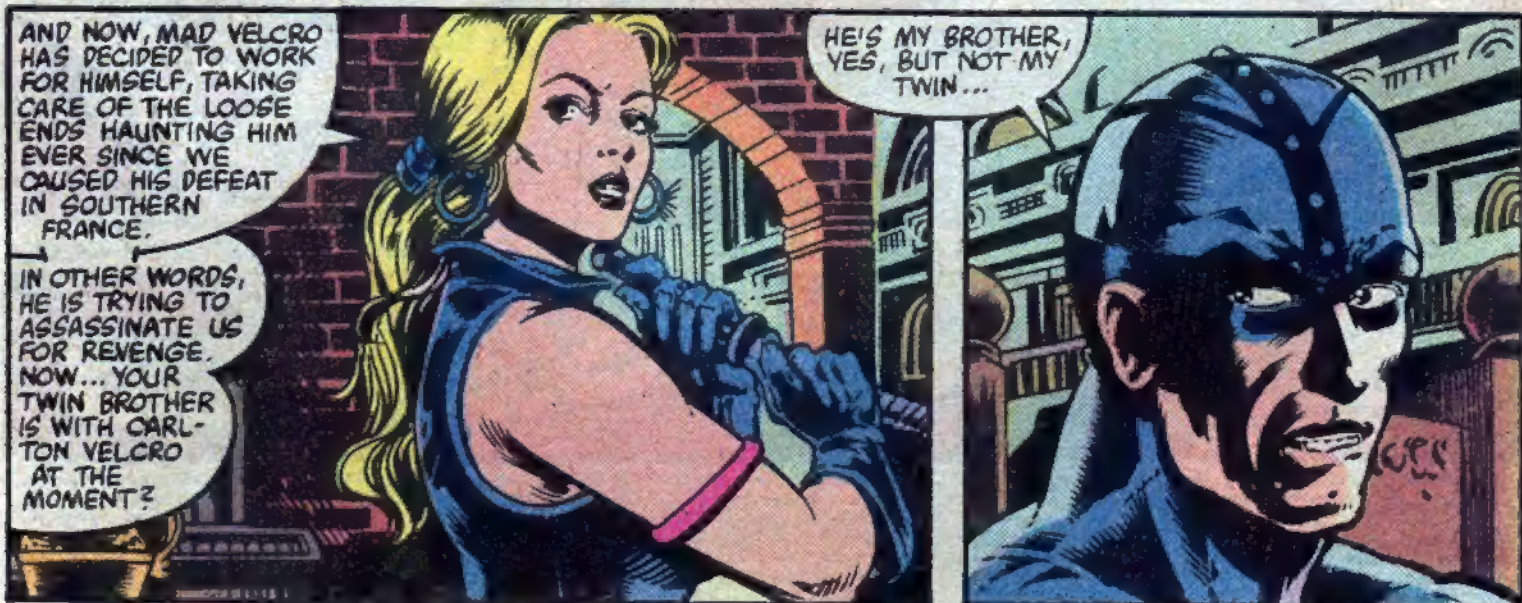
"I DO NOT RELISH PAVANE'S METHODS, BUT IF WE ARE TO HALT VELCRO'S ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS BEFORE ANYONE ELSE DIES, WE MUST HAVE THE INFORMATION AT ONCE."

VERY WELL... YOU'VE BEATEN ME... NOTHING TO LOSE NOW...

THAT'S BETTER. NOW, YOU WERE TELLING US THAT YOUR MASTER VELCRO RUNS AN ASSASSINATION BUREAU WHOSE CLIENTS INCLUDE MANY WORLD POWERS AS WELL AS INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS.

I'VE TOLD YOU NOTHING YET.

NEVERTHELESS, VELCRO'S CLIENTS HAVE YET TO BE DISSATISFIED.



AND NOW, MAD VELCRO HAS DECIDED TO WORK FOR HIMSELF, TAKING CARE OF THE LOOSE ENDS HAUNTING HIM EVER SINCE WE CAUSED HIS DEFEAT IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.

IN OTHER WORDS, HE IS TRYING TO ASSASSINATE US FOR REVENGE. NOW... YOUR TWIN BROTHER IS WITH CARLTON VELCRO AT THE MOMENT?

HE'S MY BROTHER, YES, BUT NOT MY TWIN...

...AND WE ARE NOT AT ALL RELATED TO THE ORIGINAL RAZOR-FIST -- THE ONE YOU KILLED, CHINESE SCUM!

HE WAS SLAIN BY VELCRO HIMSELF, NOT ME.

"HE REPLIES NOW, WITH LESS CERTAINTY..."

WE... WE DON'T. THE ORIGINAL HAD BLADES ON BOTH ARMS -- WE HAVE ONLY ONE BLADE, ON OPPOSING ARMS, LIKE MIRROR TWINS. WE WERE IN AN ACCIDENT... AND WHEN WE AWOK...

WELL, CARLTON EXPLAINED THAT HE'D DECIDED TO MAKE AN ASSET OUT OF THE LOSS WE'D SUFFERED IN THE ACCIDENT...

AN ACCIDENT HE NO DOUBT ARRANGED FOR YOU, SO HE COULD MANUFACTURE TWO DUPLICATES OF HIS MOST SUCCESSFUL ASSASSIN -- AND MORE EFFICIENT DUPLICATES AT THAT.

THAT'S A LIE, HEATHEN! CARLTON VELCRO TAKES CARE OF THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR HIM!

THAT'S A LIE! CARLTON WOULD NEVER DO THAT!

WHERE IS HE NOW? TALK! SCUM! OR SHOULD I --

OH? THEN HOW IS IT YOU AND YOUR BROTHER HAVE COME TO SO CLOSELY RESEMBLE THE ORIGINAL RAZOR-FIST?

MISSING HANDS AND ALL?

I'LL TALK. IT DOESN'T MATTER -- I MIGHT EVEN BE DOING HIM A FAVOR BY SENDING YOU TO HIM. HE'S IN A MANSION ON THE SOUTH CORNER OF THE SMALLEST ISLAND IN THE MARQUESAS... AND ONCE YOU SET FOOT ON THAT ISLAND, YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE IT.

HE DOESN'T SOUND SO SURE OF HIMSELF, THOUGH, DOES HE?

VELCRO HAS TARGETED YOUR LIFE NEXT, PAVANE. WILL YOU JOIN US IN STOPPING HIM?

NO... NO, I THINK NOT, SHANG-CHI...



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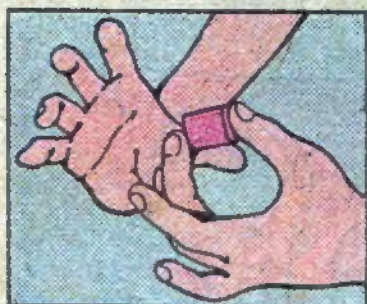
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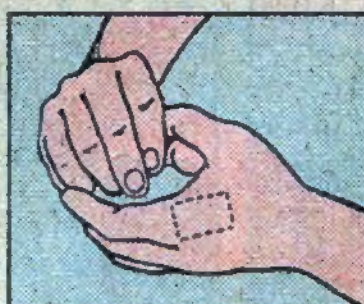
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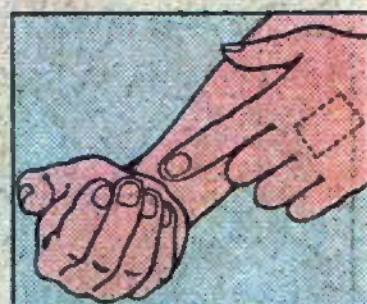
Hold the Bubble Yum between the thumb and middle finger of your left hand.



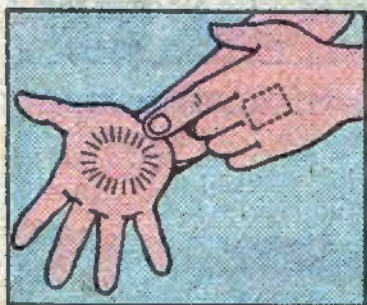
Pretend to grab it with your right hand while you really drop it into the palm of your left hand.



Keep the fingers of your right hand loose as if they had the gum.



Point with the left hand while you secretly hold the gum in your palm.



Say "Presto chango!" and open your right hand to show that the Bubble Yum has magically disappeared.



Then you can make the Bubble Yum disappear the easy way—and try the number one taste.

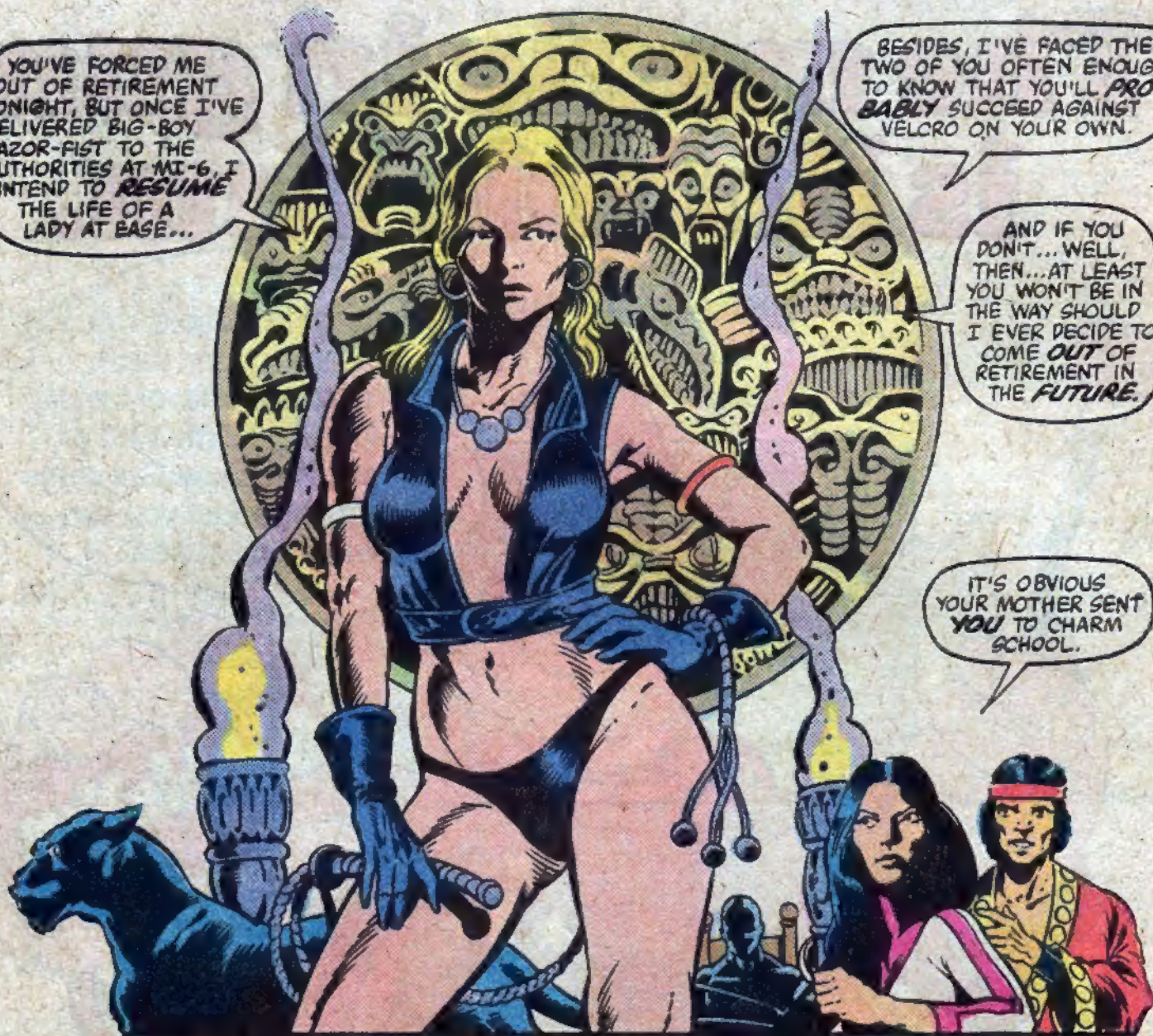


YOU'VE FORCED ME OUT OF RETIREMENT TONIGHT, BUT ONCE I'VE DELIVERED BIG-BOY RAZOR-FIST TO THE AUTHORITIES AT MI-6, I INTEND TO **RESUME** THE LIFE OF A LADY AT EASE...

BESIDES, I'VE FACED THE TWO OF YOU OFTEN ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT YOU'LL **PROBABLY** SUCCEED AGAINST VELCRO ON YOUR OWN.

AND IF YOU DON'T... WELL, THEN... AT LEAST YOU WON'T BE IN THE WAY SHOULD I EVER DECIDE TO COME **OUT** OF RETIREMENT IN THE **FUTURE**.

IT'S OBVIOUS YOUR MOTHER SENT **YOU** TO CHARM SCHOOL.



CAREFUL, MISS WU. YOUR HOSTILITY IS SHOWING...

WHRRR

... AND BIDI DOES NOT LIKE IT.



COME, LEIKO... IF WE ARE TO FACE YET A **THIRD** RAZOR-FIST, WE MUST TAKE PRE-CAUTIONS.

OH? WHAT?

YOU'LL SEE-- IN LONDON.



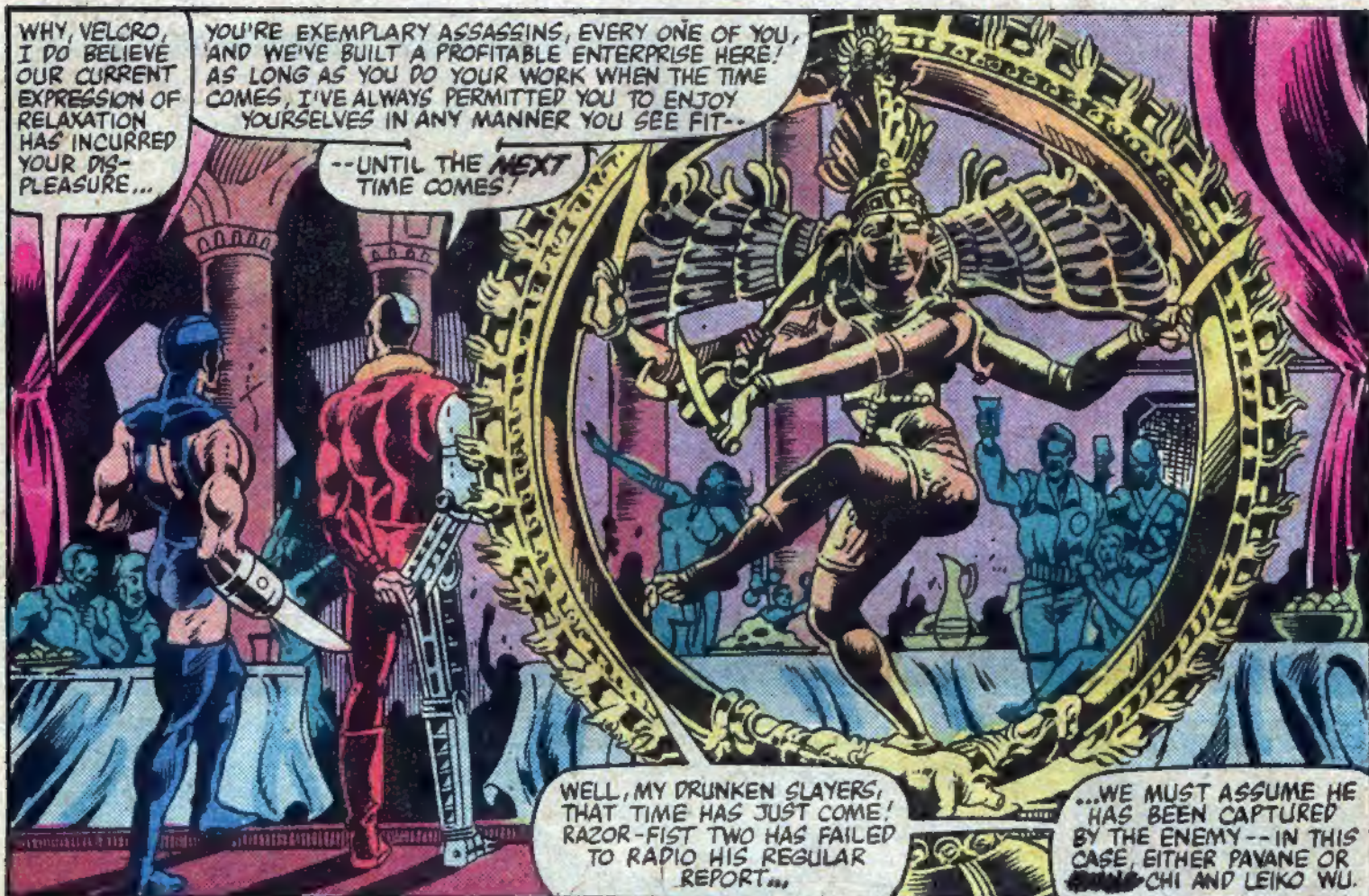
AND THEY **WILL** PUT A STOP TO YOUR PRECIOUS CARLTON VELCRO. YOU KNOW. THEY'RE GOOD, THOSE TWO, VERY GOOD... JUST LIKE ME...



"... AND MORE THAN EQUAL TO AN **ARMY** OF YOUR ILK."

ENOUGH! YOU'RE LIKE A HORDE OF SWINE GUZZLING AT THE TROUGH NEXT TO THE BUTCHER'S SHED!





WHY, VELORO, I DO BELIEVE OUR CURRENT EXPRESSION OF RELAXATION HAS INCURRED YOUR DIS- PLEASURE...

YOU'RE EXEMPLARY ASSASSINS, EVERY ONE OF YOU, AND WE'VE BUILT A PROFITABLE ENTERPRISE HERE! AS LONG AS YOU DO YOUR WORK WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'VE ALWAYS PERMITTED YOU TO ENJOY YOURSELVES IN ANY MANNER YOU SEE FIT--

--UNTIL THE **NEXT** TIME COMES!

WELL, MY DRUNKEN SLAYERS, THAT TIME HAS JUST COME! RAZOR-FIST TWO HAS FAILED TO RADIO HIS REGULAR REPORT...

...WE MUST ASSUME HE HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE ENEMY-- IN THIS CASE, EITHER PAVANE OR ~~PAVANE~~ CHI AND LEIKO WU.



WE MUST ASSUME THAT HE WILL BE FORCED TO TALK. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

THAT THE LOCATION OF THIS ISLAND BASE IS NO LONGER SECURE.



CORRECT! WE MUST ASSUME THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ASSAULT AT ANY TIME BEGINNING **NOW!** YOU ARE HEREBY ACTIVATED TO ALERT STATUS!

YOU WILL ADJUST TO A RATIONS-ONLY DIET! THERE WILL BE NO MORE DRINKING!



YOU WILL SLEEP IN MINIMUM SHIFTS! YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY INSPECT AND PREPARE YOUR WEAPONS FOR USE! YOU WILL PATROL THIS MANSION AND ITS GROUNDS CONSTANTLY!

AND IF YOU SHOULD UNCOVER ANY INTRUDERS-- **ANY** INTRUDERS--



--YOU WILL **SURVIVE THEM!!**

I TRUST MY POINT HAS BEEN MADE!
COME, RAZOR-FIST THREE, WE MAY BE ON THE DEFENSIVE, BUT NOT ALL OF US ARE GOING TO SIT AROUND HERE WAITING FOR THE SKY TO FALL.

IT'S TIME TO PLOT YOUR PERSONAL COUNTER-ASSAULT--

"--ON NAYLAND SMITH'S CASTLE IN SCOTLAND."

WELL, WE COULD CHARTER A PLANE TO PARACHUTE YOU ONTO THE ISLAND, LAD--IF YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO RISK IT ALONE...

NOT ALONE, SMITH--LEIKO WILL BE WITH ME.

AS SOON AS THEY REPORT IN FROM THEIR MISSION IN THE BAHAMAS, I'LL GIVE THEM YOUR LOCATION...

...BUT IT COULD WELL BE TOO LATE--AND JUST THE TWO OF YOU AGAINST AN ENTIRE HOUSE OF ASSASSINS...

TWO ARE OFTEN BETTER THAN AN ARMY, SMITH. BESIDES, LEIKO AND I NEED THIS MISSION...

...WHATEVER THAT CRYPTIC COMMENT IS SUPPOSED TO MEAN. I'LL HIRE A PLANE--AND MEET YOU AT THE CAR TO DRIVE YOU TO THE AIRPORT.

YES, YES, LAD, OF COURSE--BUT I MEAN WITHOUT BLACK JACK AND CLIVE!

VERY WELL...

HELLO, OPERATOR...?

SOMEWHERE I THINK WE SHARE E.S.P., SHANG. I WAS THINKING THE EXACT SAME WORDS--"WE NEED THIS."

WE HAVE BOTH BEEN SUFFERING A LOSS OF OUR FORMER ART, OUR FORMER SKILL--AND STRIVING TO REGAIN THEM, TO REBUILD OUR CONFIDENCE.

THIS MISSION COULD DO IT FOR BOTH OF US, AND ALSO INCREASE OUR RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER.

YES, BUT WITHOUT MAKING EITHER OF US FEEL TOO GREAT A DEPENDENCE ON THE OTHER, I HOPE.

WHAT, LEIKO, IS WRONG WITH DEPENDENCE...?

NO MYSTERY, LEIKO.

"SHE IS SILENT."



"AT THE CAR, WE PAUSE... AND HER LIPS ARE NOT SOFT THIS TIME..."



NOTHING, SHANG, AS LONG AS IT'S A PROCESS OF FINDING STRENGTH, RATHER THAN A REFUGE FOR WEAKNESS. AND BY THE WAY, YOU DIDN'T REALLY DOUBT ME IN HONG KONG, DID YOU? YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D GIVEN MY LOVE TO SHEN KUEI?

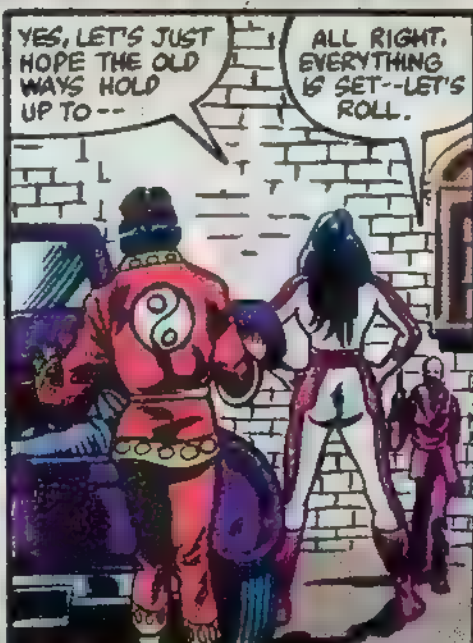
ONLY WITH MY MIND, NOT MY HEART.



GOOD. WE'VE GOT TO REMEMBER OUR PAST. TRUST IN IT, TAKE STRENGTH FROM IT, FIND SHELTER IN IT.



THE KEY FOR THIS MISSION? FINDING SHELTER IN THE WAYS OF THE PAST-- EVEN A PAST BEYOND OUR OWN?

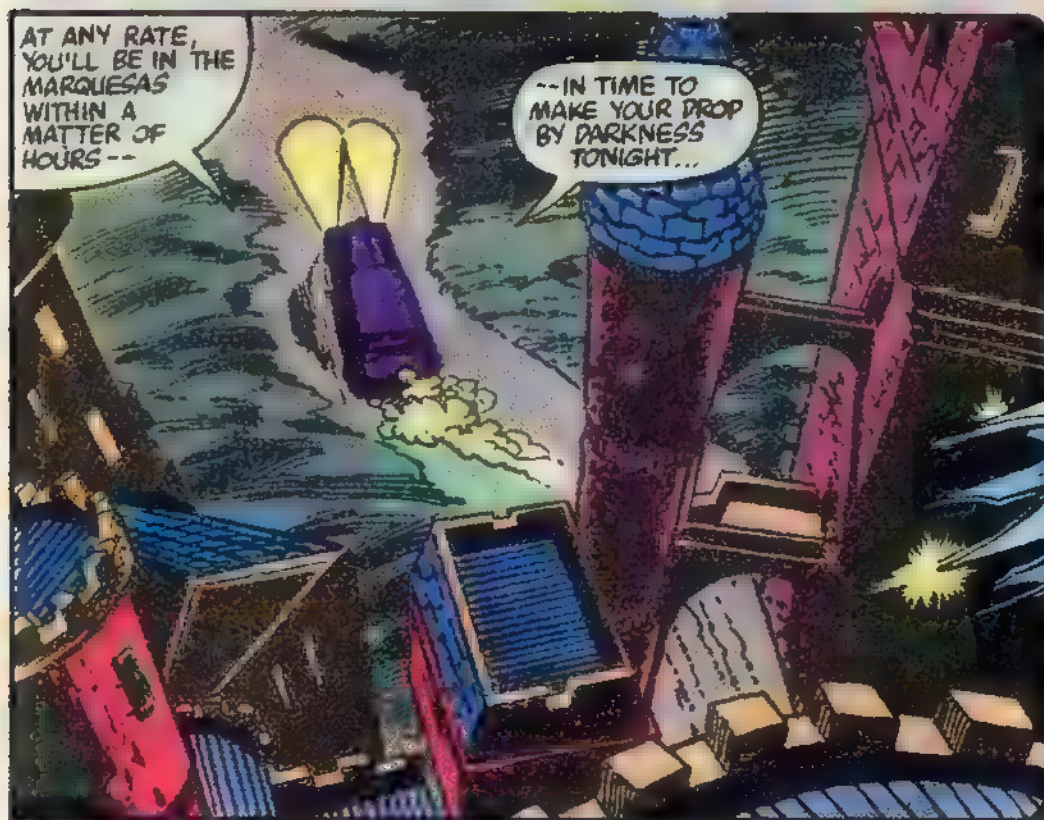


YES, LET'S JUST HOPE THE OLD WAYS HOLD UP TO--

ALL RIGHT. EVERYTHING IS SET--LET'S ROLL.



THE PLANE'S WAITING-- SO LET'S JUST HOPE THE PRECAUTIONS YOU OBTAINED IN LONDON PROVE FRUITFUL...



AT ANY RATE, YOU'LL BE IN THE MARQUESAS WITHIN A MATTER OF HOURS--

--IN TIME TO MAKE YOUR DROP BY DARKNESS TONIGHT...

--MAKE YOUR ASSAULT BY DARKNESS TOMORROW NIGHT, RAZOR-FIST THREE.

THE GATEHOUSE HERE WILL BE SECURED, AND RIGGED WITH ALARMS...

STILL, I'M CONFIDENT YOU'LL FIND A WAY TO PENETRATE THEIR DEFENSES AND DROP IN ON THEM UNDER COVER OF THE DARKNESS.

"THE JOURNEY BY PLANE HAS PASSED IN SILENCE. LEIKO EVEN MANAGED TO SLEEP.

"BUT NOW WE ARE BOTH FRESHENED BY THE NIGHT WIND, ALERT FOR ANYTHING.

SMITH KNOWS WE'RE AFTER THEM, SO BE ALERT FOR GUARDS PATROLING THE GROUNDS-- TAKE A GUN AND SILENCER WITH YOU THIS TIME.

"WE REACH THE TREETOPS WITHOUT DRAWING FIRE...

THERE THEY ARE-- TWO OF 'EM-- LET'S GO!

BUT I WANT THE ACTUAL KILLS TO BEAR YOUR PERSONAL MARK, RAZOR-FIST-- THE MARK OF COLD, SILENT STEEL.

I UNDERSTAND, VELCRO.

"FREEING OURSELVES OF THE PARACHUTES, WE MOVE TO THE RUCKSACKS OBTAINED IN LONDON...

TIME TO TAKE SHELTER IN THE WAYS OF THE PAST, SHANG...

...AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.

"BUT THE WORST OCCURS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY..."

FREEZE!

"WE OBEY, LAPING INTO A SHARED TRANCE OF SUSPENSION. EVEN OUR HANDS REMAIN WHERE THEY ARE, WITHIN THE RUCKSACKS."

"THE JUNGLE, ENFOLDING US, SIGHS ITS SOFT NIGHT-SOUNDS."

"AND, BRISTLING WITH WEAPONS, STRANGE MEN STEP CLOSER."

"LEIKO'S EYES ARE OPEN TO ME, WAITING. FINALLY, WHEN THE MEN ARE NEAR... I RAISE MY LEFT EYEBROW."

"AND--"

LOOK OUT! THEY'VE GOT SWORDS!

AGH-H!

CHUD

FWAK

"-- THE NIGHT-SOUNDS ARE BROKEN BUT BRIEFLY."

"WE TURN BACK TO THE RUCKSACKS--"

SO FAR, SO GOOD, SHANG.

"-- RESUMING OUR SEARCH FOR SHELTER IN THE PRECAUTIONS OF THE PAST."

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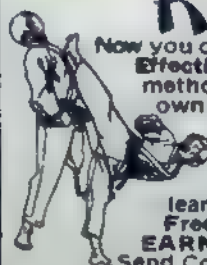


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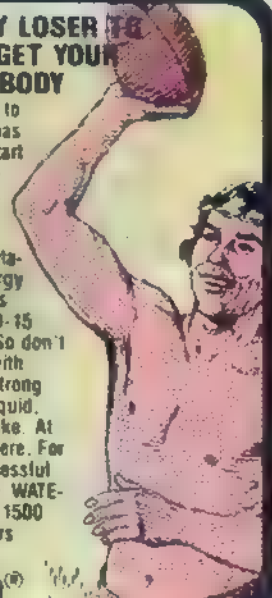
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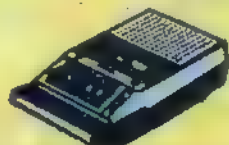
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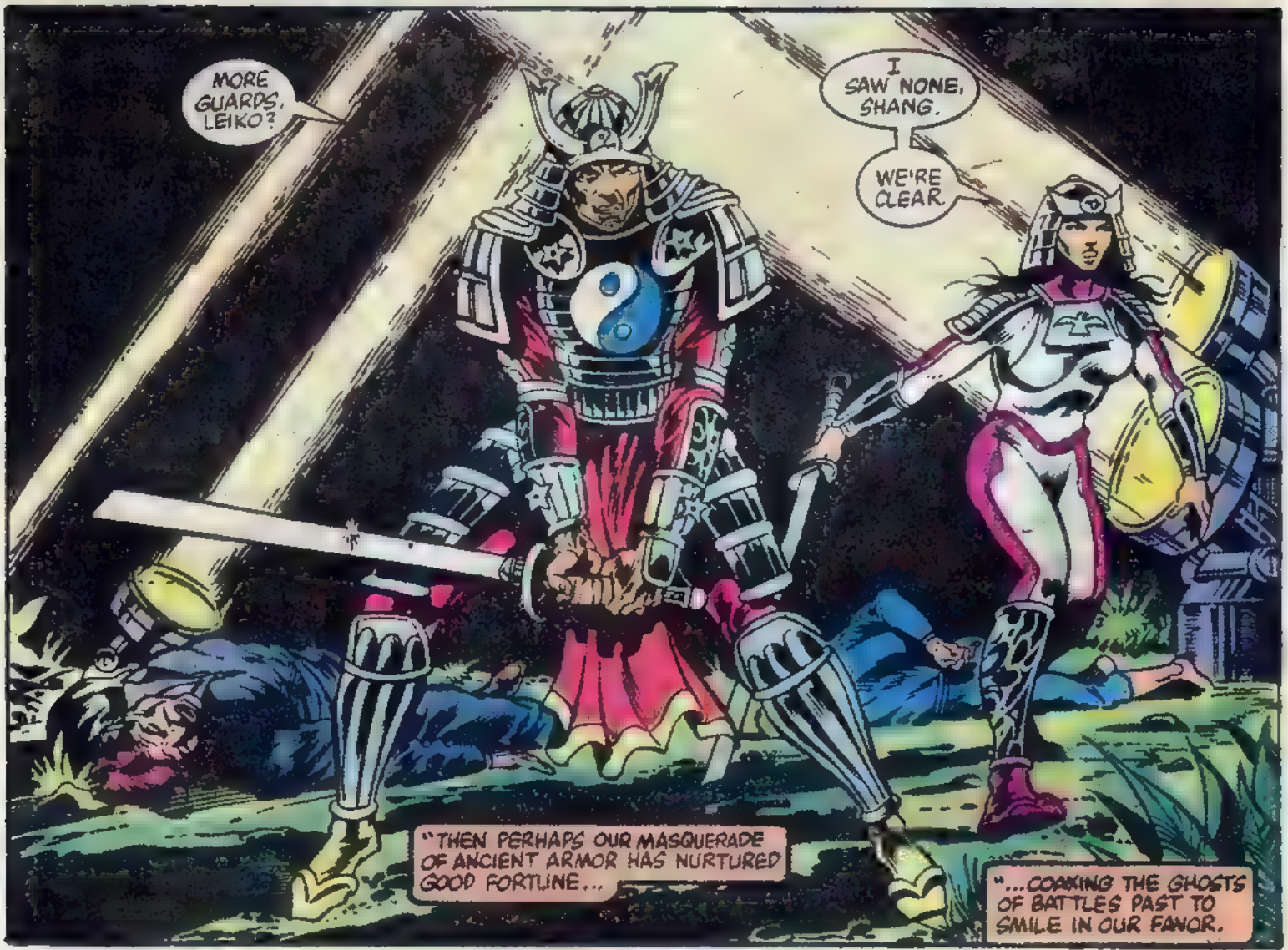
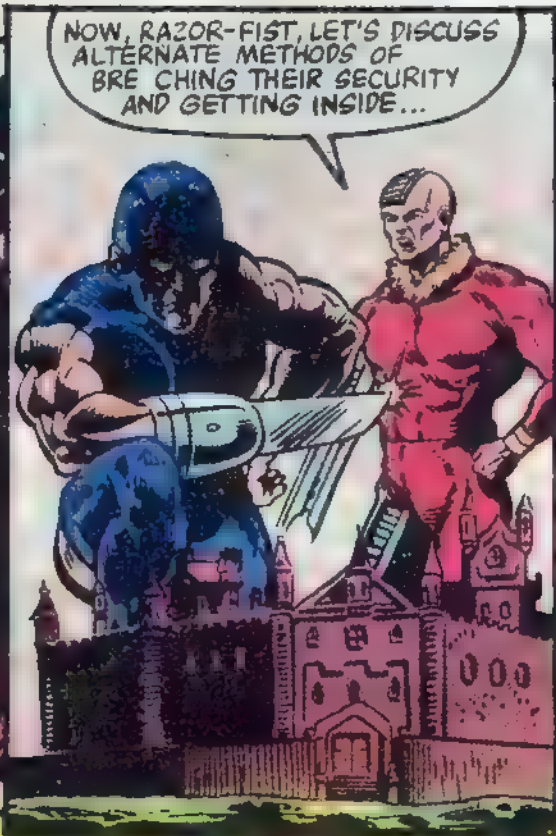
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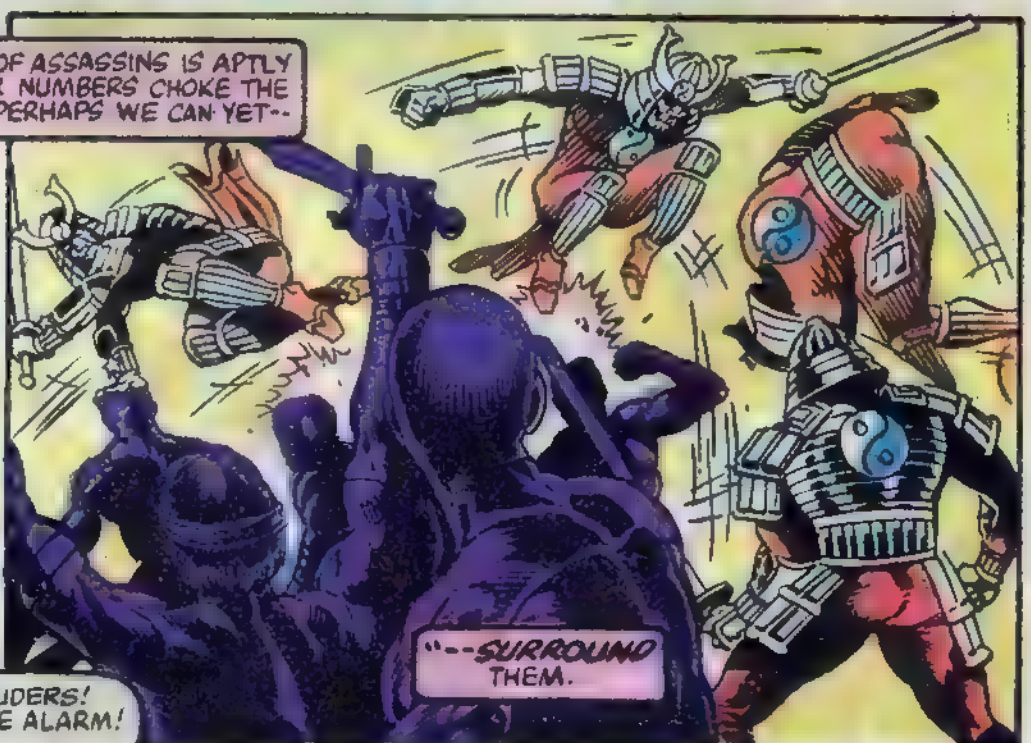
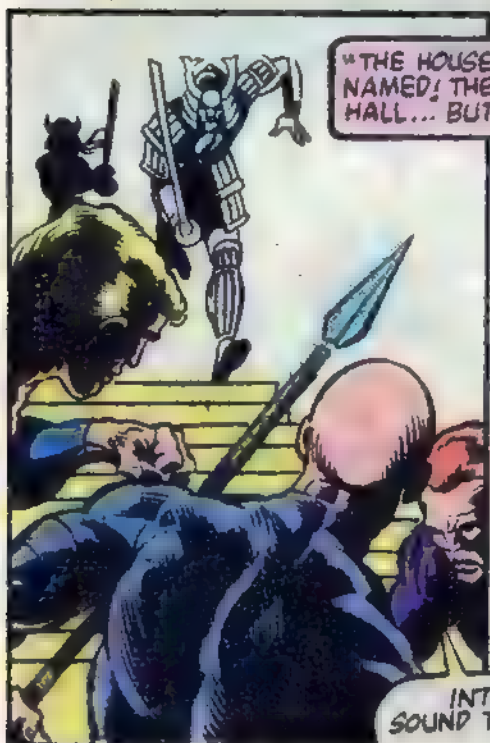
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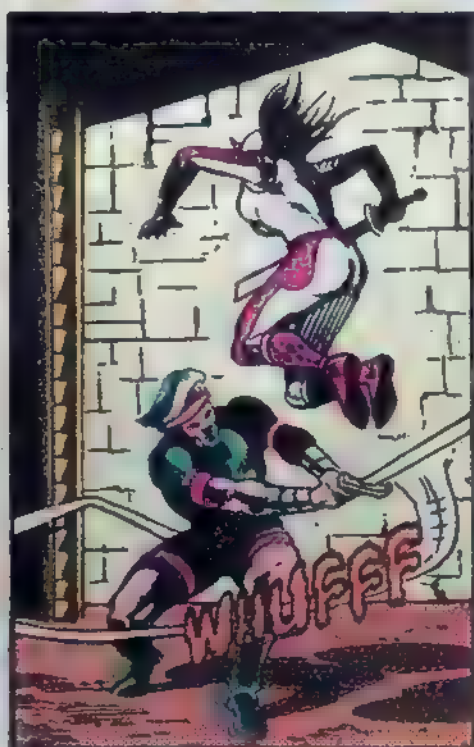
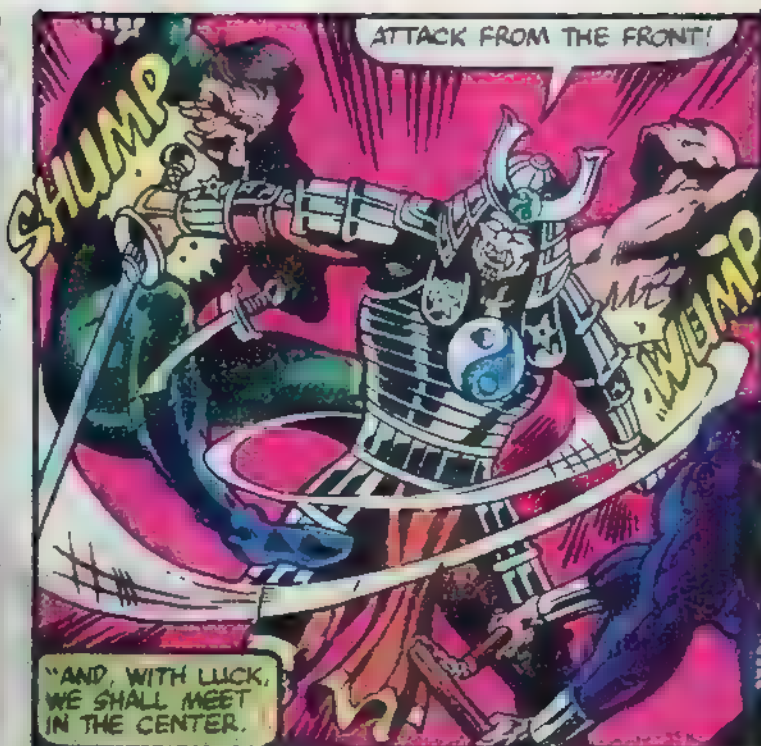
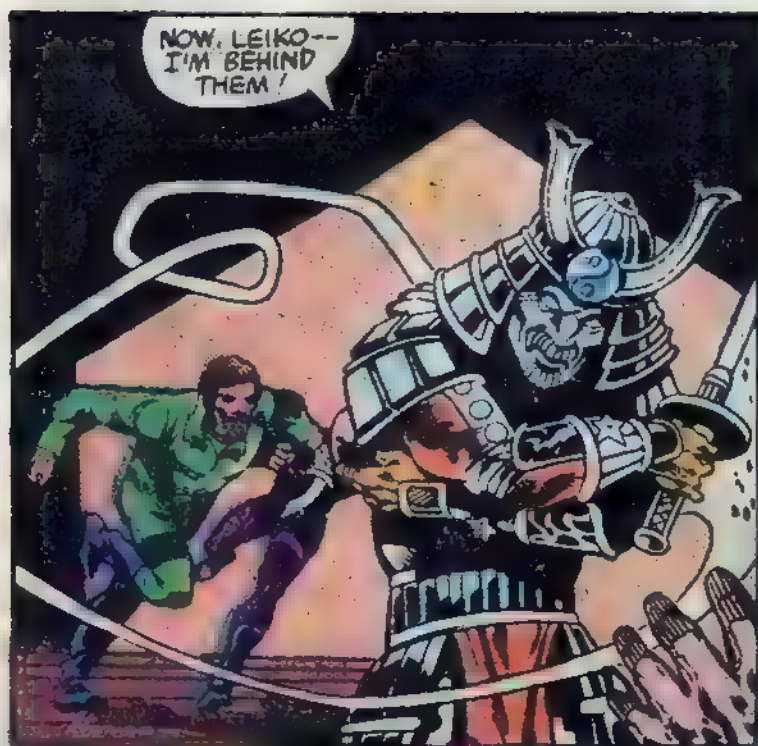
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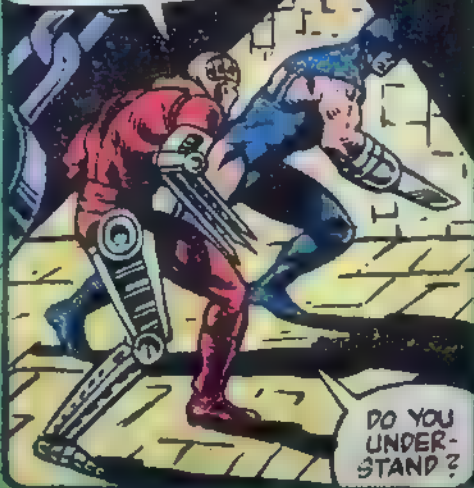
BAW BAW BAW

THE ALARM, RAZOR-FIST!
THEY'RE HERE ALREADY--
AND THEY'VE PENETRATED
THE GUARDS! THEY'RE IN
THE HOUSE!!



I'LL GO SEE IF I CAN
HELP, VELCRO...

NO! STAY HERE! AS
LONG AS THEY REMAIN
A THREAT WITHIN THIS
HOUSE, I'M NOT TO
BE LEFT ALONE!



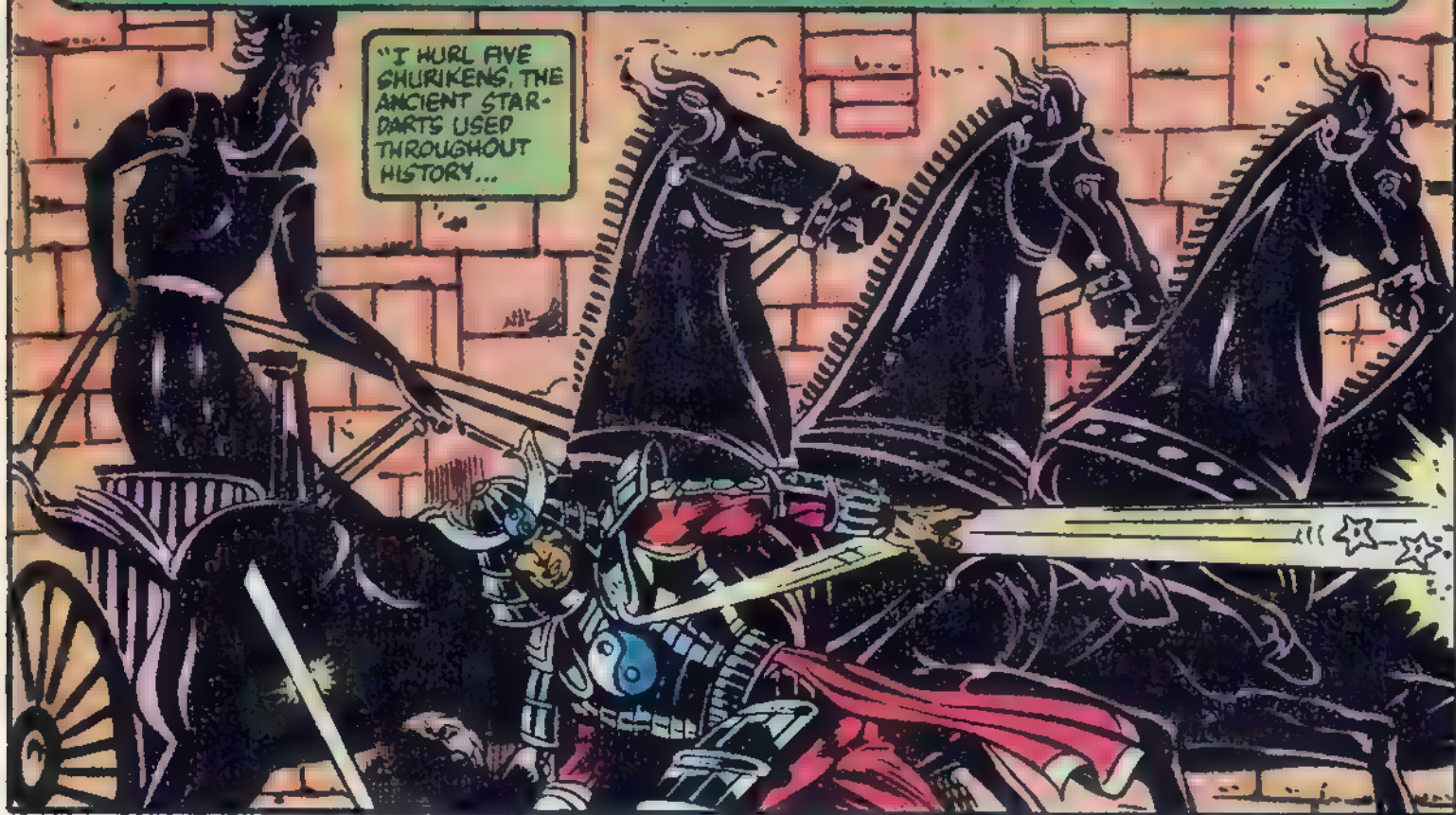
DO YOU
UNDER-
STAND?

I WANT YOU BY MY SIDE AT
ALL TIMES, RAZOR-FIST!
DO-YOU-UNDERSTAND?!



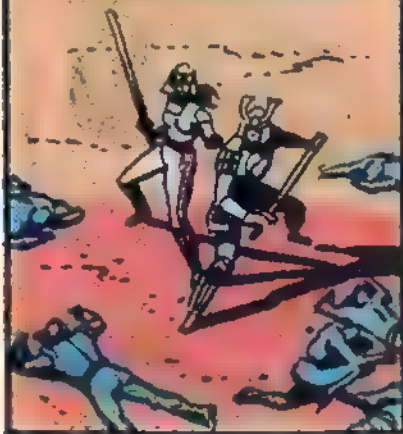
YES,
CARLTON... I
UNDERSTAND

"I HURL FIVE
SHURIKENS, THE
ANCIENT STAR-
DARTS USED
THROUGHOUT
HISTORY..."



"...AND I MEET LEIKO IN THE
CENTER..."

"...SURROUNDED
BY LIFELESS
ASSASSINS."



THE HOUSE IS LARGE, LEIKO...

WHICH
DIRECTION
DO YOU
WANT,
SHANG?



YOU
CHOOSE.



"FOR ME, AT LEAST, LEIKO HAS CHOSEN WELL; I MEET NO OTHER ASSASSINS IN THE COOL LONG HALLS.

"IT REEKS OF IMPORTANCE, ITS DENIAL TO THE EYE, CONJURING HINTS OF THE SCENE BEYOND.

"BUT NOW, A DOOR.

"WERE SUSPICION, FUELED BY IMAGINATION? OR SOME COMBAT-STIRRED INNER SIGHT?

KRASH

TAKE HIM! KILL HIM, RAZOR-FIST!!

"THE THIRD RAZOR FIST."

CHUD

"IF HE RISES, THE ARMOR WILL FACE ITS FIRST REAL TEST...IN RISING FLAMES.

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AGGH!

INDEL!

IT'S EATING MY SWORD!

FORGET THE SWORD, VALERUS. WE'VE GOT TO SAVE INDEL!

I'LL DRAG HIM FROM THE ROOM!

THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF THE SLIME!

FWOOSH!

SUDDENLY, A FIGURE STEPS OUT FROM THE SHADOWS.

SAREN!

NO QUESTIONS NOW... HOW'S INDEL?

IT'S GREEN SLIME, YOU'RE A CLERIC! CAN YOU HELP HIM?

I'LL DO MY BEST!

THE CLERIC'S POWERS RESTORE INDEL TO HEALTH. IN THE ROOM THEY FIND...

A MAGIC SWORD! IT'LL REPLACE MY RUINED ONE!

INDEL, LOOK FOR SECRET DOORS.

WITHOUT WARNING--

HELP!

--A TRAP DOOR OPENS BENEATH INDEL'S FEET!

HE'S GONE!

THAT MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO GO EVEN DEEPER INTO THE DUNGEON, TO RESCUE HIM!

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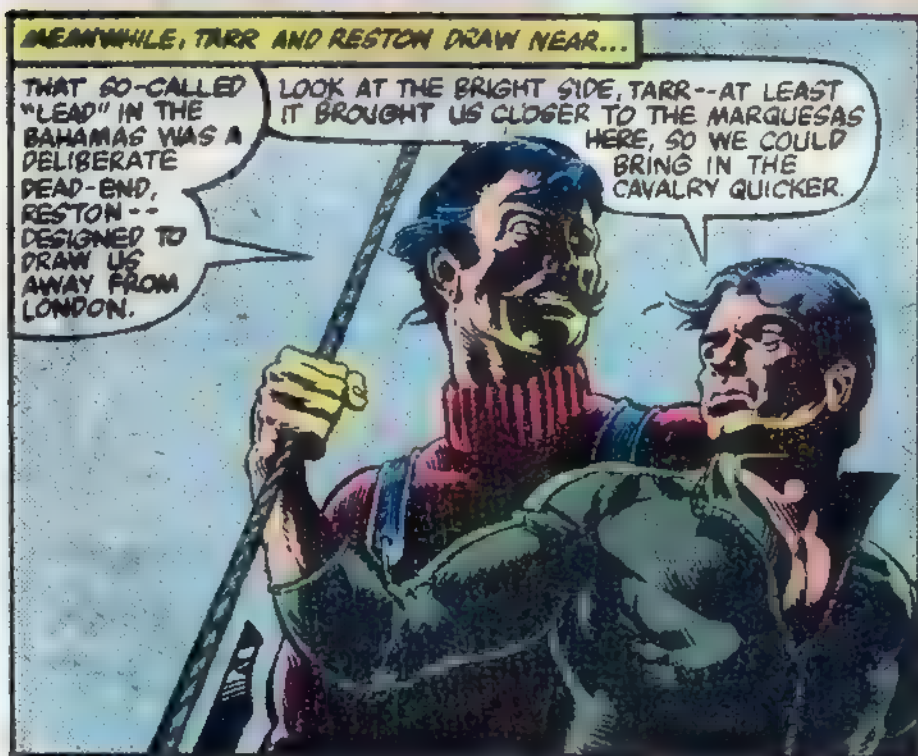
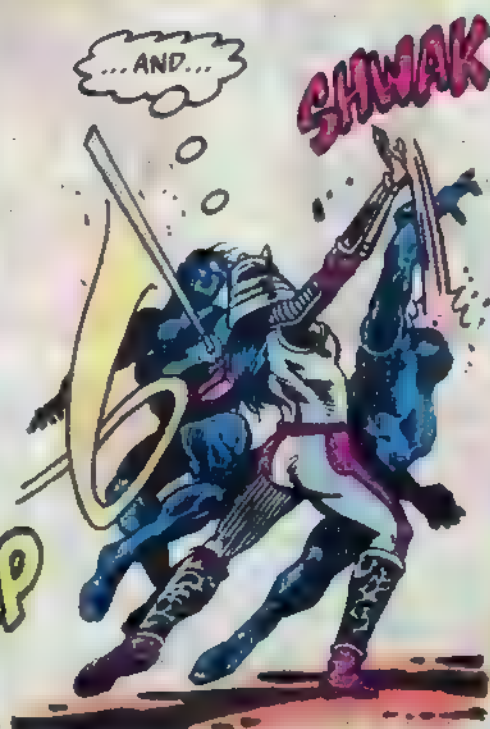
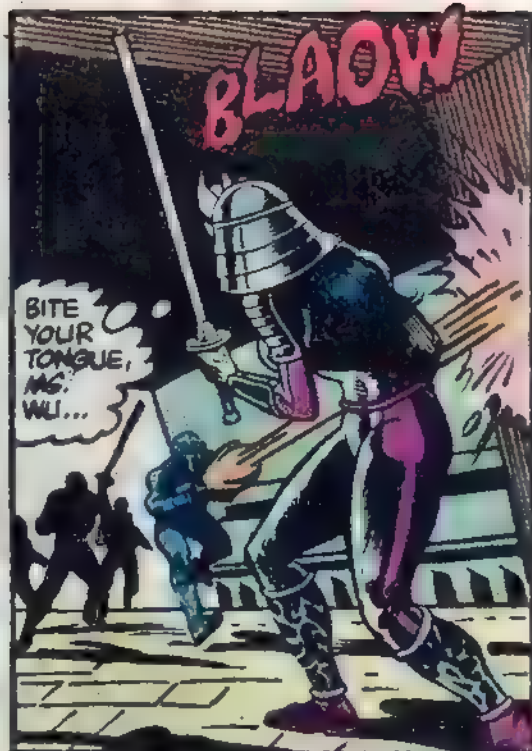
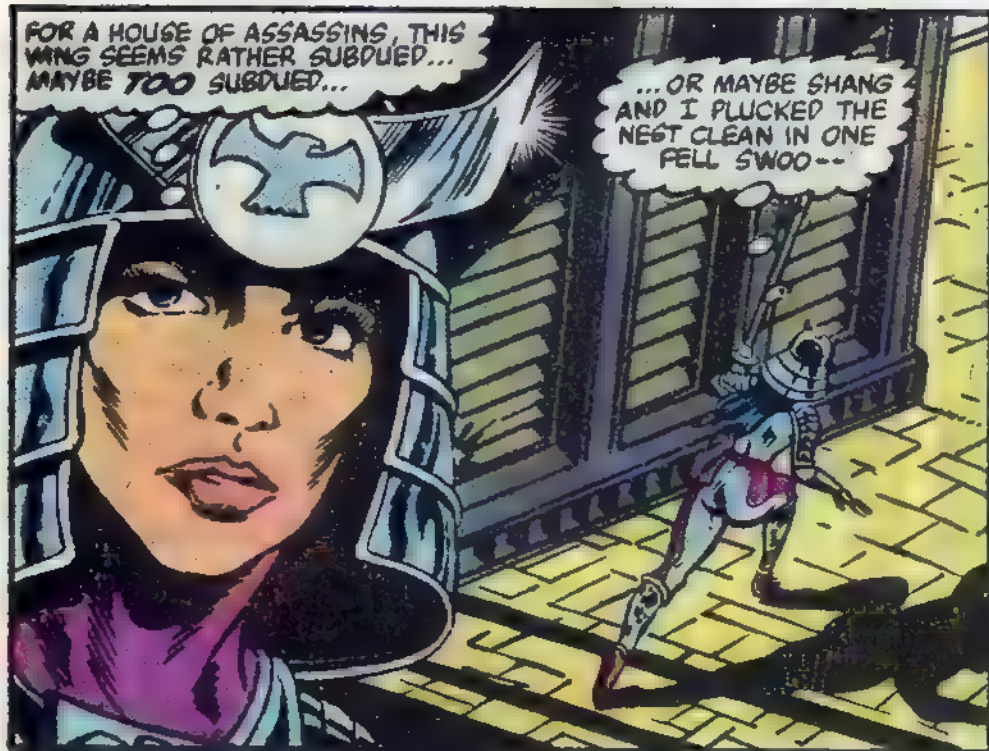
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"HE RISES... AND THE ARMOR FACES ITS TEST OF FIRE FROM TWO QUARTERS, FOR RAZOR-FIST IS NOT MY SOLE OPPONENT...

"MAD VELCRO STANDS JUST BEYOND THE FLAMES, GUN IN HAND, PATIENTLY AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF THE FIRST TEST."

"BLADE AGAINST BLADE, WE ARE EQUAL -- MY LENGTH AGAINST HIS POWER."

"THE ARMOR, TOO, IS AN EQUALIZER -- DULLING MY SPEED BUT HOLDING AGAINST HIS SLASHES, GIVING ONLY IN SPARKS."

"YOU KILLED THE ORIGINAL RAZOR-FIST, CHINESE SCUM -- AND PERHAPS MY BROTHER AS WELL! FOR THAT, I'LL MAKE YOU SCREAM AS YOU BLEED!"

"I KILLED NO ONE -- VELCRO HIMSELF IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COWARDLY DEED!"

"YOU SERVE THE MAN -- SURELY YOU MUST KNOW HE IS CAPABLE OF SUCH A THING! SURELY YOU MUST BE AWARE OF HIS CAPACITY FOR COWARDICE!"

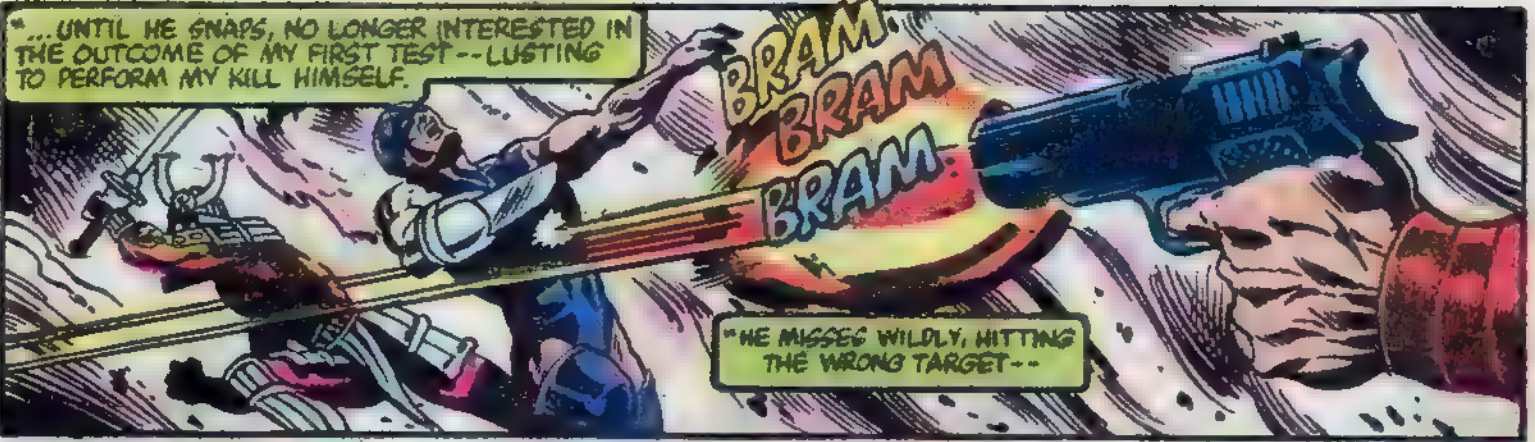
"HIS COWARDICE... YESS..."

"VELCRO! IS THIS TRUE?! DID YOU KILL --"

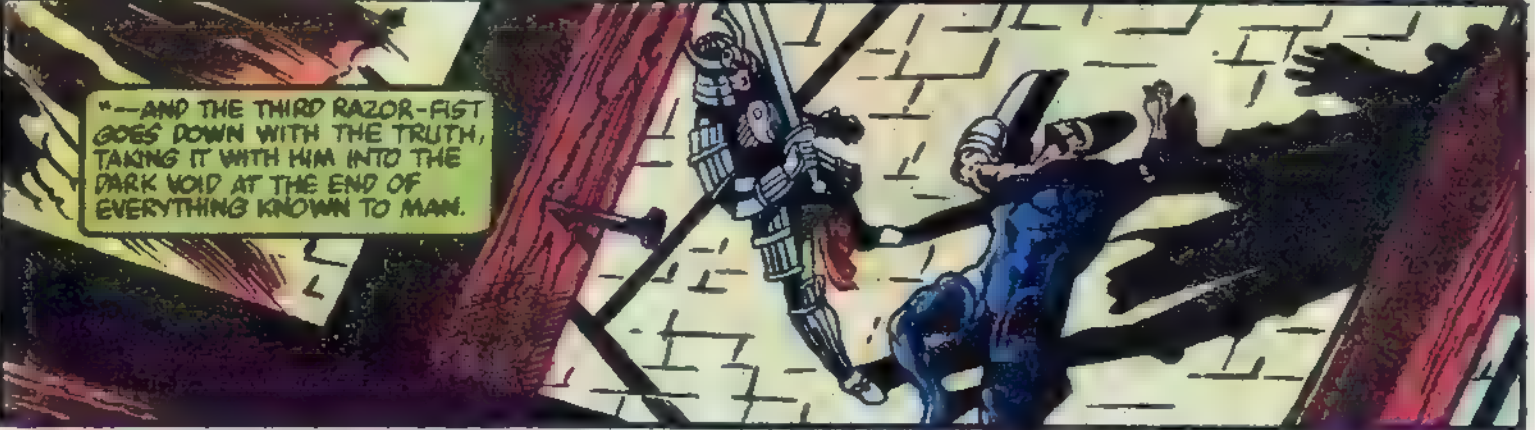
"SILENCE, YOU FOOL! KEEP FIGHTING -- DON'T STOP -- KILL HIM!!"

"AND, IN ANGER, VELCRO'S PATIENCE BEGINS TO CRUMBLE..."

"...UNTIL HE SNAPS, NO LONGER INTERESTED IN THE OUTCOME OF MY FIRST TEST -- LUSTING TO PERFORM MY KILL HIMSELF.



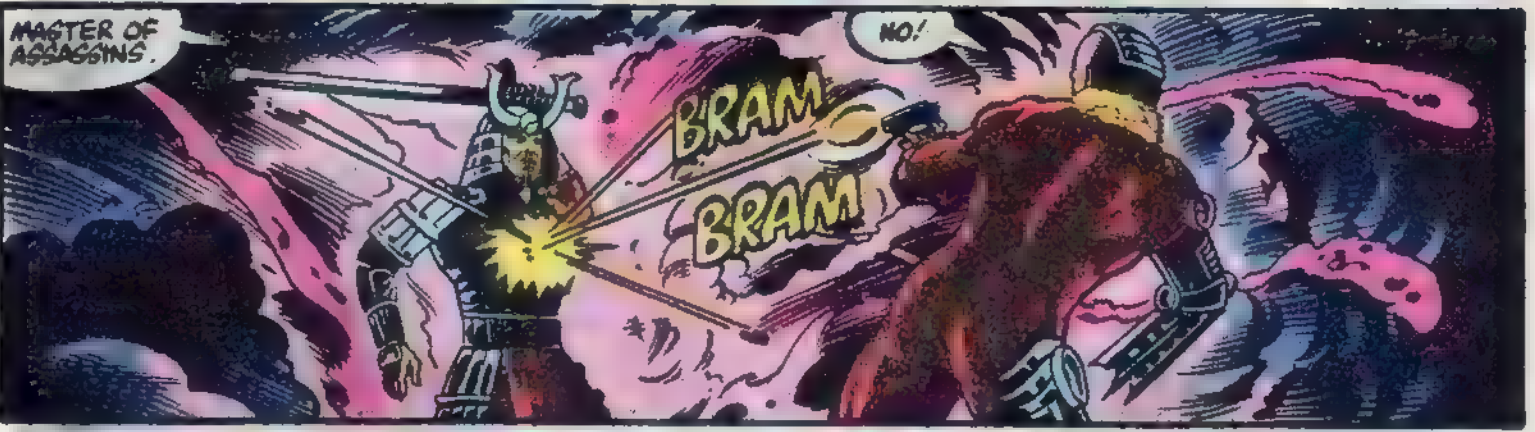
"--AND THE THIRD RAZOR-FIST GOES DOWN WITH THE TRUTH, TAKING IT WITH HIM INTO THE DARK VOID AT THE END OF EVERYTHING KNOWN TO MAN.



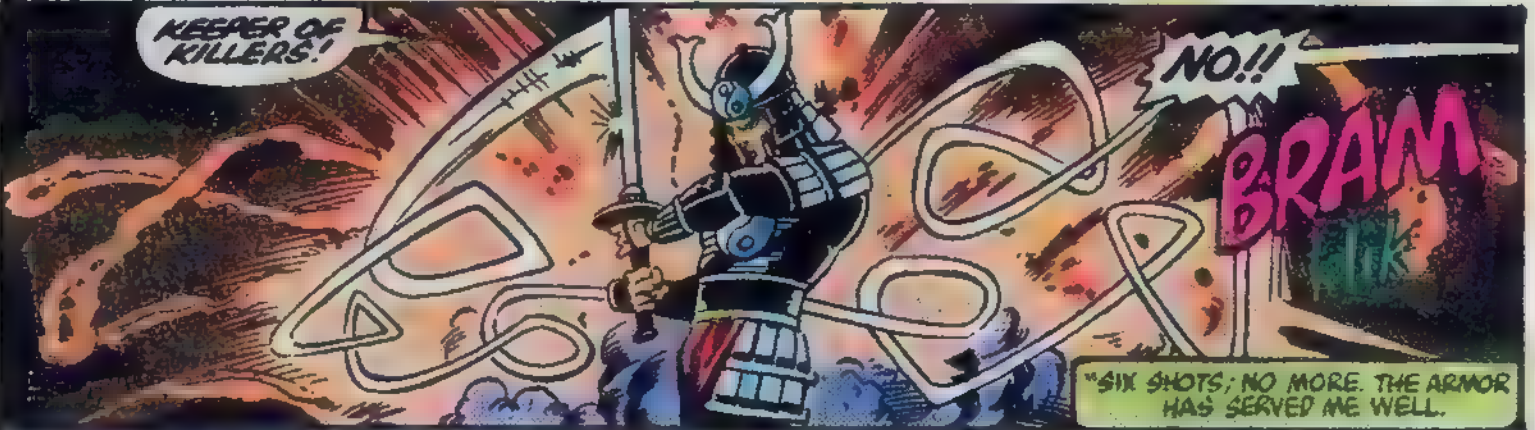
MURDERER.



MASTER OF ASSASSINS.



KEEPER OF KILLERS!



"SIX SHOTS; NO MORE. THE ARMOR HAS SERVED ME WELL.



AND NOW,
VELCRO...



... MY MISSION
NEARS ITS TRUE
GOAL.

I CAME HERE
NOT TO FIGHT
RAZOR-
FIST...



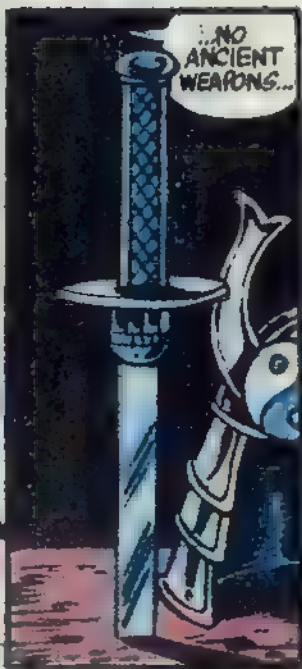
...AND NOT YOUR
CORPS OF ELITE
ASSASSINS.

I CAME HERE
TO FIGHT
**CARLTON
VELCRO.**



AND TO FIGHT
SUCH A
MADMAN...

... I NEED NO
SHELTER IN
THE PAST...



...NO
ANCIENT
WEAPONS...



...AND NO OUTDATED
ARMOR.

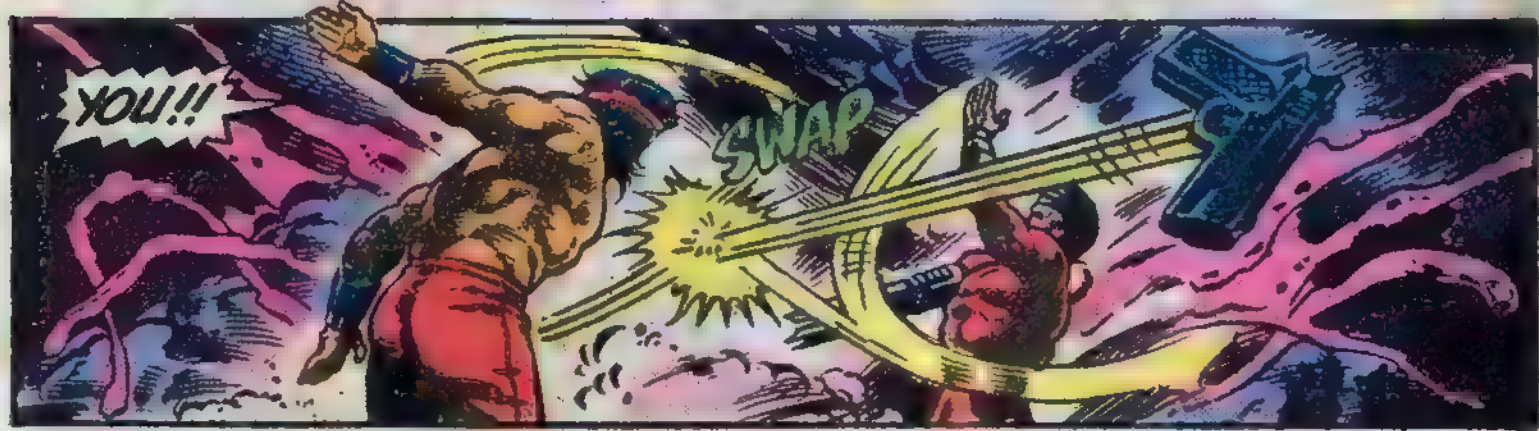
I NEED
NOTHING BUT
MYSELF...



...AND THE SEARING
FURY OF THE
PRESENT.

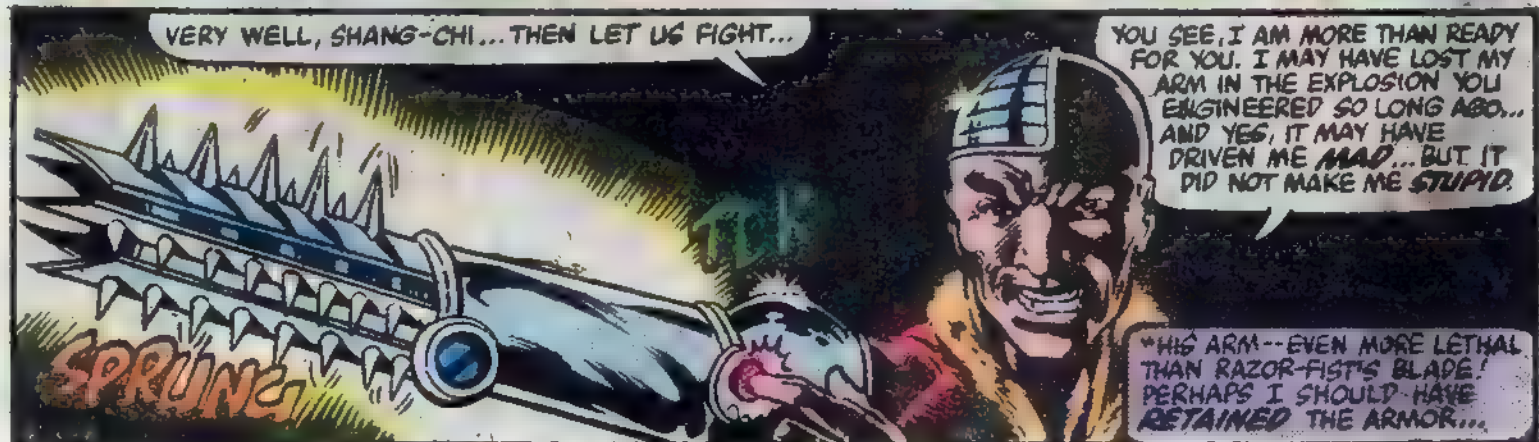


COME, MAD VELCRO
--FOR I HAVE COME
FOR YOU...



YOU!!

SWAP



VERY WELL, SHANG-CHI... THEN LET US FIGHT...

YOU SEE, I AM MORE THAN READY
FOR YOU. I MAY HAVE LOST MY
ARM IN THE EXPLOSION YOU
ENGINEERED SO LONG AGO...
AND YES, IT MAY HAVE
DRIVEN ME **MAD**... BUT IT
DID NOT MAKE ME **STUPID.**

*HIS ARM--EVEN MORE LETHAL
THAN RAZOR-FIST'S BLADE!
PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE
RETAINED THE ARMOR...

"BUT NO! AS SOON AS WE LOCK, I REALIZE A GRIM, HARD TRUTH..."

THE LAST ONE-- FINALLY-- AND NOT A SECOND TOO SOON...

KU'D

...THE FIRE'S RAGING NOW!

GOT TO GET TO SHANG-- BEFORE THE ENTIRE MANSION COLLAPSES IN FLAME!

"IT MUST BE DONE CLEANLY, SHARPLY..."

"...AND ALONE, WITH NO AID FROM ANYONE OR ANYTHING."

AND TARR ARRIVES...

AWRIGHT-- FREEZE, YA STINKIN' SWINE! THE LAW HAS JUST LANDED!

"LEIKO IS ON THE WAY..."

AND IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO A CERTAIN TWO PEOPLE OF THE CHINESE PERSUASION, YOU'RE GONNA WISH YOU'D BEEN CAUGHT BY VIGILANTES!

"THE SPIKES--GRINDING
INTO MY FLESH--"

"MUST
FORCE
VELCRO
BACK..."

GUHH!

"...AND, AS WITH THE
SECOND RAZOR-FIST
IN ENGLAND--"

AHRR!

"--DEPRIVE HIM OF HIS FALSE ARM."

KII-YAHH!

FRAKT

CHUNT

NO MORE... PLEASE...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH...

DON'T
HIT ME...
NOT
AGAIN...

SHANG--!

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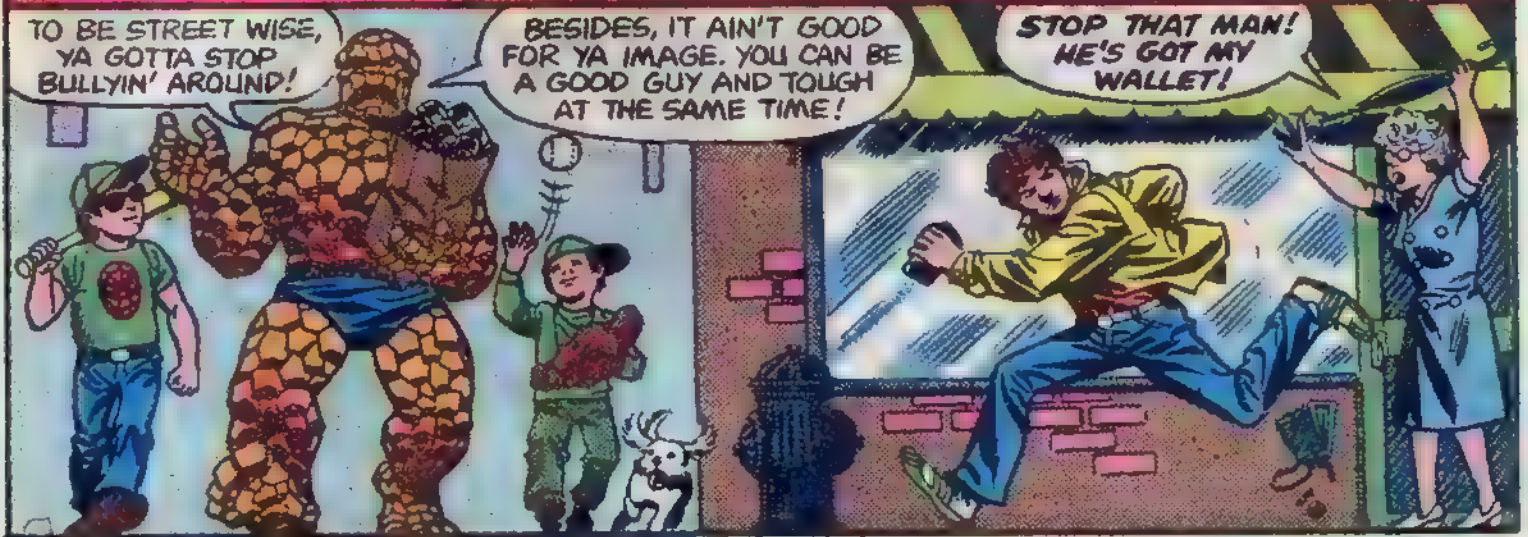
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THE THING IN "A LESSON TO BE LEARNED!"



HERE, LEIKO.

SHWANK

CLIVE AND BLACK JACK ARE HERE, SHANG -- I SAW THEM OUT THE WINDOW.

THEY'VE BROUGHT THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

THEN IT'S OVER, LEIKO. LET US LEAVE.

"LATER, THE LAST OF THE ASSAGGINS ARE LED AWAY, NUMB AND SURLY AS THE HOUSE CONTINUES TO BURN..."

WELL, CHINAMAN -- LOOKS LIKE YOU AN' WU HAVE DONE IT AGAIN. SCRATCH ONE GRADE-A ASSASSINATION BUREAU AND HANG IT UP TO DRY FOR POSTERITY.

BLACK JACK'S RIGHT, SHANG -- MISSION ACCOMPLISHED AS INTENDED.

NO MORE NEED FOR THE PAST... SO WHAT SAY WE COME OUT OF OUR SHELLS FOR GOOD AND FACE THE FUTURE WITHOUT ARMOR... WITH BARED SOULS AND...

"SOMETIMES I WOULD RATHER HEAR LEIKO'S VOICE THAN THE SIGH OF WIND OR THE RUSH OF WATER.

"AND SOMETIMES... SHE SIMPLY TALKS TOO MUCH.

...MMPH...

AS MY GREAT-UNCLE'S BIOGRAPHER MIGHT SAY... AMEN.

YA MEAN AMEN. RESTON -- AMEN.

"NAYLAND SMITH IS AN INTELLIGENT, SOMETIMES WISE MAN.

"YET WE LEFT HIM CONFUSED.

"PERHAPS WE WILL TRY TO EXPLAIN THE VERY SIMPLE TRUTH TO HIM, BUT I SUSPECT HE WILL NEVER TRULY UNDERSTAND IT..."

"WE NEEDED THIS."

NEXT ISSUE: THE DARK ANGEL!

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Hey there!

It's the hundredth issue of Chang-Shee! Wowee!

From the looks of things, great happenings are in store for this comic (as usual)—and from Zeck's terrific cover to the final pain of a lost love yet again, the current issue is superb!

Gene Day's art in the beginning of the story also promises a bright future artwise—moody, with shadows used perfectly to give us the feeling of highly "modern" spy intrigue while still conveying the early 1930's setting.

Indeed, Chapter One's "The Immortal Caravan" was a fantastic story in itself. Nayland Smith's uncertain love relationship was intriguing to say the least. Fah Lo Suee, after all her appearances in this mag, is still elusive and mysterious. The first I saw of her was way back when she held a gun on Shang and Reston, her cruel Gulacy-eyes sparkling. Later, of course, she commanded Reston (under the Spider Spell) to kiss her so she could remember what it was like to kiss Smith "when he was as young as I." These earlier appearances go back a good five years or more. That's known, folks, as *roots*.

Smith infiltrated Fu's lair by cover (or deception) of something which was only used as a symbol to rally his Si-Fan army, bringing to mind the elaborate degrees Fu Manchu will go to—for example, his campaign to obtain Shaka Kham's skull. Speaking of which, if Fu is old enough to have had an Egyptian tomb built for him, then how old is his ancestor Kham's skull? The mind boggles to contemplate such incredibly *ancient* evil.

I see Fu was using snakes and vipers even at this early stage, and the phoenix on his chest foretells the future—especially on page 10, when he emerges behind the torch, much like his fiery phoenix-like advent in South America several years back. Gad, there's just so much detail—and this is all just in the preface for the story yet to unfold!

Chapter Two's "The Ancient Mystery" isn't quite as good, but this is a completely subjective reaction. Why? For one thing, there is no direct conflict between good and evil. Rather, this middle piece deals completely in mystery, resulting in no solution or resolution, when the reader expects the usual adventure tale. But it was okay by me; after all, it was a mere six pages long. Shang is confused by the concept of eternally growing up, never being "grown up"—no wonder he so desperately needs a father image.

Recalling Fah Lo Suee's cruelty to "Little Spirit" in the Moench/Gulacy magnum opus, it was rather startling to find them at peace here in the flashback. There's no deep love between them, true, but the lack seems to derive from Fah never being around.

Now we head into the final chapter, "The Whitechapel Madness," and the story reverts to the recognizable form we've grown to love over the years. Very nice, looking at all three chapters—and a different mood, feel, and flow for each segment, emphasizing the past intruding into the future.

Loved Leiko pursuing the mad killer—plus the twist that Fu knew who Jack the Ripper was. I also liked the way Melissa jumped into the fray with both feet. From fleeing the Leopard-Men in terror to acting as a decoy for a mad killer, she's come a long way. Remember when she was Smith's docile secretary, making Chi ponder: "She follows orders. Why can't I?"

Chi, as always, sends Reston to the back while he boldly enters the lion's den himself. The result of these battles is never in doubt, yet you always manage to infuse them with genuine suspense.

A wonderfully tragic conclusion, with Shang and Fah managing to reach something of an understanding based on their common fate.

Nice capper to a hundred issues, sirs. Here's hoping for a hundred more.

Chris Meier
Box 7
Cumberland, WI 54829

Dear Doug,

Last night I read MOKF #100. I liked it. As I later went to sleep, I thought about Fah Lo Suee and her two lovers, speculating on her untold adventures working for/against her father, how she had reorganized MI-6, and wondering if she had ever considered slipping Sir Denis a little elixir vitae. This morning all I remem-

bered dreaming was that it was Halloween and I was entertaining some children in a Miss Piggy mask.

Oh well.

Steve
(No address given)

Friends,

A few random points on MASTER OF KUNG FU in general and #101 in particular:

1. Nice storyline. Stories with a good balance of characters are rare in comics, and stories which flow coherently from beginning to end are rare in any medium. The theme of responsibility and consequences was handled with just the right touch—not too heavy. The moral question is a timeless one. To what extent does late repentance excuse a life of crime? Suppose Fu Manchu had been the old man in the bed...

2. Leiko Wu was handled nicely, though cast in a passive role this time. More action from her would be appreciated.

3. Lovely choreography in the kung fu sequences. When Mike Zeck goes, I'll miss him.

4. Melissa Greville is a bore. She is taking up panel space which could be devoted to Leiko.

5. I like Shang-Chi when he is sneaking about in shadows.

6. I like Shang-Chi in a black turtleneck and white pants. Very much.

7. Knowing British elevators—excuse me, *lifts*—I can testify that it is not difficult to "outrace" one. It is easy.

8. Clive Reston appeared in one panel and had nothing to say. I am crazy over Reston. Please, sir, can I have some more?

9. The last four panels were superb.

Elizabeth Holden
120 Lewis St. Apt. 2
Ottawa, Ont. K2P 0S7 Canada

Brief replies to several of your points, Elizabeth:

2. Leiko has already resumed a more active role and will continue to do so. (She was, after all, confined to a hospital bed in #101...)

3. We miss Mike, too, but what do you think of Gene Day's work? Personally, we think his layouts are stunning.

4. Watch for a major change involving Melissa Greville—as well as Clive Reston and the Dark Angel.

8. Reston plays a major role in #108. It's called "Chameleons."

9. Thank you.

Out of room for this month, People. Next issue heralds the coming of the mysterious Dark Angel—and highlights Shang-Chi's epic battle with a master assassin, known as Sata. The story is called "A Painless Result of Having Lived"—and just wait till you glom Gene Day's incredible artwork! It is clearly something to behold.

So be here in 30 days and we'll all behold it together.



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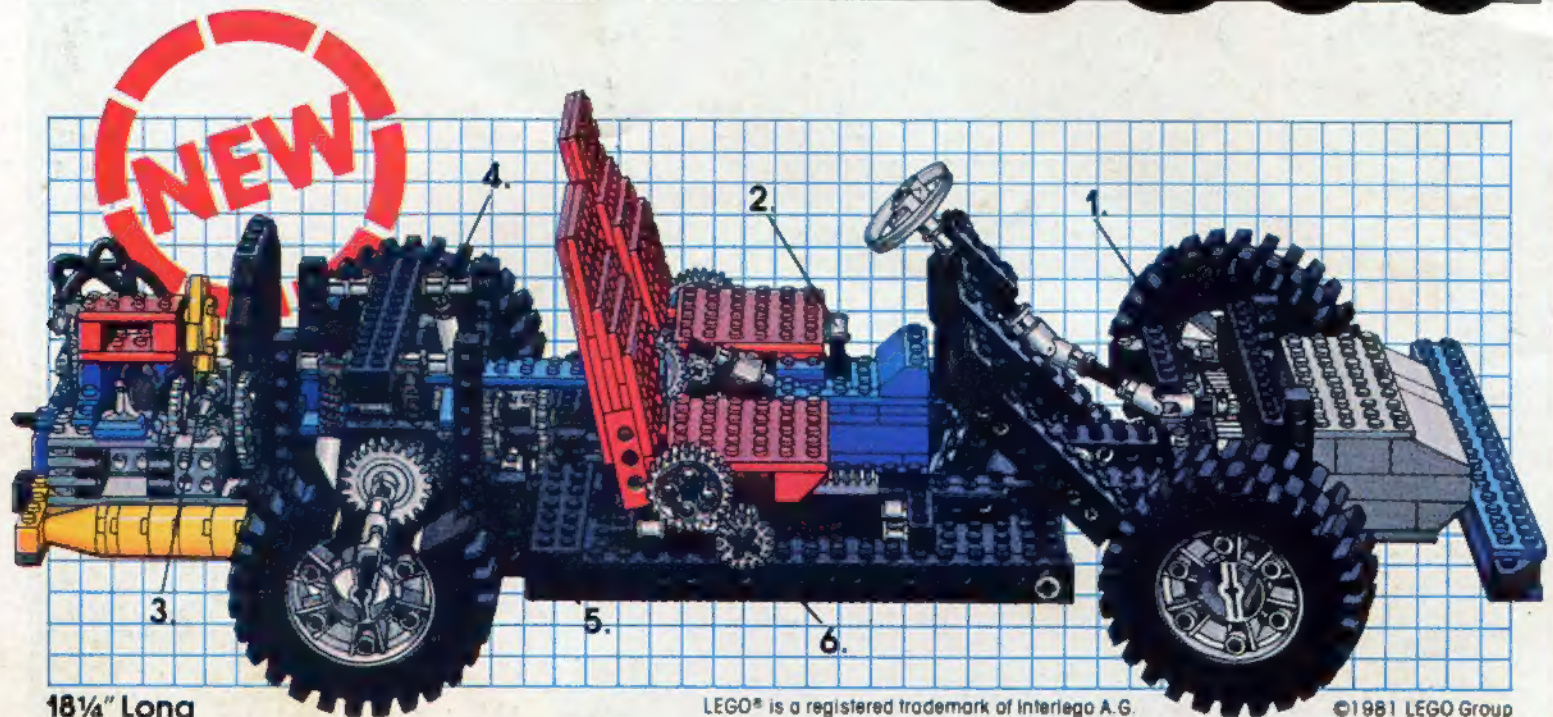


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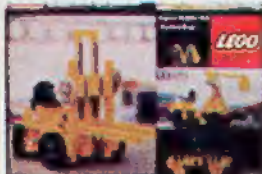


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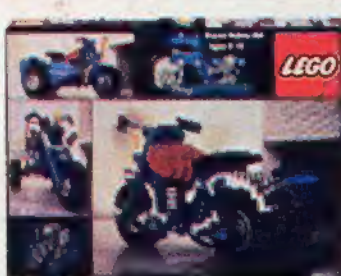
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